

HF234 - 0 - Taking of Turtles Provisions Modified

Chief Author: **Samantha Vang**
 Committee: **Environment and Natural Resources Finance And Policy**
 Date Completed: **1/18/2023 12:22:39 PM**
 Agency: **Natural Resources Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	5	5	5	5	5
Total	-	5	5	5	5	5
Biennial Total			10			10

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Chloe Burns **Date:** 1/18/2023 12:22:39 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	5	5	5	5	5
Total	-	5	5	5	5	5
Biennial Total			10			10
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Total	-	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Biennial Total			(10)			(10)

Bill Description

This bill eliminates turtle sellers and apprentice licenses. It also requires a recreational turtle license in addition to an angling license to harvest turtles. It eliminates some means of allowable turtle capture, including traps.

Assumptions

This proposal accelerates the phase out of turtle sellers licenses by immediately eliminating the need for a turtle seller license and the apprentice license. The DNR has been phasing out the turtle license by not offering new licenses, only renewals. Since 2003, turtle sellers and apprentice licenses have decreased, while the recreational turtle license have increased through 2021. *Sales for license year 2022 are data as of this note and ends February 28.

Type	Qty 2003	Qty 2017	Qty 2021	Qty 2022*	5 Yr Avg Trend
Turtle Seller License	51	23	19	17	-4%
Turtle Apprentice License	19	11	8	8	-3%
Recreational Turtle License	0	148	158	137	2%

This proposal maintains the recreational turtle license fee (\$25) and requires an angling license in addition to the recreational turtle license to harvest a turtle. The proposal bans the use of turtle traps so turtle tags will no longer need to be purchased (\$700 annual savings).

We anticipate this proposal would result in increased recreational turtle licenses because the recreational turtle license is required for any personal turtle harvest, whereas previously only an angling license was required. For this note, we are using the FY2022 data and assume pre-2022 licensing trends will return if this bill passes, resulting in an observed pre-2022 2% annual increase in licenses sold. The assumptions account for the current lack of data of how many anglers currently take turtles with an angling license only by assuming the +2% average trend licensing increase per year. This is about 5-6 additional licenses sold per year.

Current expenditures are for tags, report forms, and minimal staff processing time of less than 20 hours per year. Changes to estimated program expenditures are minimal and change to staff time would be immaterial to total staff workload.

This proposal assumes no requirement for tracking harvest data. Tracking harvest data would result in the creation of a database and would increase costs associated with this fiscal note.

Section 5 removes language relating to a turtle sellers license. No fiscal impact.

We assume those who renew their licenses prior to the effective date are expected to be able to continue this activity throughout the license year without receiving a refund for partial use.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Revenue Type and Estimated Change in License Quantity by Year

Revenues / Type	Rate	Qty	FY24	Qty	FY25	Qty	FY26	Qty	FY27
Turtle Sellers License	\$250	-17	(\$4,250)	-17	(\$4,250)	-17	(\$4,250)	-17	(\$4,250)
Turtle Apprentice License	\$100	-9	(\$900)	-9	(\$900)	-9	(\$900)	-9	(\$900)
Recreational Turtle License (existing)	\$25	137		137		137		137	
Recreational Turtle License (new)	\$25	8	\$200	11	\$275	14	\$350	17	\$425
Change in Revenue			(\$4,950)		(\$4,875)		(\$4,800)		(\$4,725)

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

This may result in higher revenues from increased license sales, depending on the level of user interest.

Local Fiscal Impact

None.

References/Sources

Minn. Stat. 97A.475, Subd. 41 Turtle Licenses

Minn. Stat. 97C.605 Turtles

MN Rules 6256.0500 Taking Turtles

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